Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 SSM-05 ACDA-10 DHA-02 /099 W

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R 311445Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8166 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2994

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SA US IS PLO XF

SUBJECT: FIRST KUWAITI REACTIONS TO CARTER-FAHD TALKS

1. TWO KUWAITI OFFICIALS HAVE REFERRED PUBLICLY TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRES. CARTER AND SAUDI PRINCE FAHD.
KUWAITI FON MIN SABAH AL-AHMED IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD
REPORTER OF SAUDI NEWSPAPER (AL-JAZIRA, MAY 30) THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON PEACE AND PALESTINIAN HOMELAND,
DURING THE FAHD VISIT, WERE "POSITIVE" BUT THAT THERE WAS
A RISK OF OVEROPTIMISM IN THE ARAB WORLD. MINISTER FOR CABINET AFFAIRS

HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY NOTED MAY 28 THAT THE USG HAD FOR THE FIRST TIME CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, THOUGH UNDEFINED AS TO LOCATION OR EXTENT, AND THAT, FOR ITS PART, THE PLO HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED READINESS TO "ESTABLISH A HOME ON ANY INCH OF PALESTINIAN LAND." WITHOUT DRAWING FURTHER CONCLUSIONS, MINISTER HUSSEIN OBSERVED THAT KUWAIT COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WHICH THE PALESTINIANS REJECT. HE ADDED THAT KUWAIT WOULD EXPECT TO BE BRIEFED ON THE CARTEFAHD TALKS, AND HE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ARAB MINI-SUMMIT SHORTLY REGARDING THESE DEVELOPMENTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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THOUGH HE PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW OF ANY FIRM PLANS FOR ONE.

2. THOUGHTFUL COLUMN IN KUWAIT DAILY (AL QABAS, MAY 29), BY LEBANESE CHRISTIAN PROFESSOR AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY, ASSERTS THAT "CARTER IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK" IN ADVOCATING HOMELAND AND RESTITUTION FOR PALESTINIANS. BUT THAT THE US MUST STILL RECOGNIZE THE PLO AND DEFINE MORE PRECISELY

THE BORDERS OF THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND IT IS CONSIDERING. THIS WRITER ADDS THE THOUGHT THAT BEGIN'S NEW ROLE IN ISRAEL MAY MAKE PRES. CARTER'S JOB EASIER, SINCE LIKUD IS POLITICALLY LESS APPEALING TO THE US PUBLIC THAN ITS PREDECESSOR, AND THEREFORE PRES. CARTER HAS MORE LATITUDE "AT HOME" THAN BEFORE IN DEALING WITH THE GOI. SUTHERLAND

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